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Amendments to the claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (withdrawn)

Claim 2 (withdrawn)

Claim 3 (withdrawn)

Claim 4 (withdrawn)

Claim 5 (withdrawn)

Claim 6 (withdrawn)

Claim 7 (withdrawn)

Claim 8 (withdrawn)

Claim 9 (withdrawn)

Claim 10 (withdrawn)

Claim 11 (withdrawn)

12. (currently amended) A fabric-elastomer sandwich, comprising a fabric woven so as to contain minute gaps that allow passage of elastomeric material therethrough, said fabric having, on at least one side thereof, separate regions which are in relief with respect to the fabric surface, and are formed by an elastomer subjected to pressure and heating such as to make it flow through said minute gaps of the fabric, said separate relief, elastomer regions alternating on said at least one fabric side with fabric regions that are completely free of elastomer.

13. (original) The sandwich of claim 12, comprising said separate elastomer regions on one side thereof and a continuous layer of elastomer on the opposite side.

14. (original) The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 12, comprising a layer of fabric which has, on both sides thereof, separate regions made of the elastomer flowed through said fabric, said separate regions being in relief with respect to said fabric surface.

15. (original) The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 12, wherein the elastomer is constituted by mixtures based on materials selected from a group comprising

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polyurethane, polyvinyl chloride, polyolefin, natural and synthetic rubber and acrylic, polyurethane and silicone resins.

16. (original) The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 12, wherein the separate elastomer regions have thickness and areas selected according to requirements.

17. (original) The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 12, wherein the separate elastomer regions have a thickness of 2mm.

18. (original) The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 12, wherein the fabric is made of materials selected from a group comprising nylon, polyester, natural fibers and mixed natural and synthetic fibers.

19. (currently amended) The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 18, wherein the fibers that make up the fabric are selected from a group comprising [comprise] cotton, linen and aramid fibers.

20. (original) The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 13, wherein said separate elastomer regions have a discontinuous configuration that provides high elasticity.

21. (currently amended) The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 12, further comprising an osmotic membrane which is bonded thereto at least at the fabric regions that are completely free of elastomer [that provides] so as to provide breathable/impermeable properties to the fabric.

22. (New) A fabric-elastomer sandwich, comprising a woven fabric that contains minute gaps which allow passage of elastomeric material therethrough, said fabric having, on a first side thereof, separate regions which are in relief with respect to the fabric surface and are formed by an elastomer flown through said minute gaps, by way of pressure and heating application, from a second, opposite side of the fabric, said separate relief, elastomer regions being provided in a preset configuration in which said elastomer regions alternate on said first side with fabric regions that are completely free of elastomer, and wherein said second, opposite side of the fabric is completely free of elastomer.

23. (New) A fabric-elastomer sandwich, comprising: a woven fabric layer that contains minute gaps which allow passage of elastomeric material therethrough; a plurality of separate elastomer regions provided in relief with respect to the fabric surface on one first side thereof and formed by elastomer flown through said minute gaps by way of pressure

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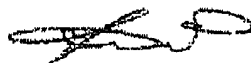
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and heating application from a second, opposite side of the fabric; a plurality of fabric surface regions that are completely free of elastomer, said separate relief, elastomer regions being arranged in a preset configuration in which the elastomer regions alternate with said fabric surface regions that are completely free of elastomer; a continuous layer of elastomer material arranged on said second fabric side; and a separation layer interposed between said continuous layer of elastomer and said second fabric side, and wherein said separation layer is adapted to break selectively and allow elastomer flowing that forms said separate elastomer regions upon pressure and heating application from said continuous elastomer layer, through said minute gaps, to said first fabric side, said separation layer being further adapted for separation from the fabric along with said continuous elastomer layer.

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Respectfully submitted,



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- (4) A claim may be canceled by merely providing an instruction to cancel. Listing a claim as canceled will constitute an instruction to cancel. Any claims added by amendment must be indicated as (new) and shall not be underlined.
- (5) All of the claims in each amendment paper must be presented in ascending numerical order. Consecutive canceled or withdrawn claims may be aggregated into one statement (e.g., Claims 1 – 5 (canceled)).

Example of listing of claims (use of the word "claim" before the claim number is optional):

Claims 1-5 (canceled)



Claim 6 (withdrawn)

Claim 7 (previously amended): A bucket with a handle.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A bucket with a ~~green~~ blue handle.

Claim 9 (withdrawn)

Claim 10 (original): The bucket of claim 8 with a wooden handle.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (re-presented – formerly dependent claim 11) A black bucket with a wooden handle.

Claim 13 (previously added): A bucket having a circumferential upper lip.

Claim 14 (new): A bucket with plastic sides and bottom.

B) Amendments to the specification:

Amendments to the specification must be made by presenting a replacement paragraph or section marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version. An accompanying clean version is not required and should not be presented. If a substitute specification is being submitted to incorporate extensive amendments, both a clean version (which will be entered) and a marked up version must be submitted as per current 37 CFR 1.125.

C) Amendments to drawing figures:

Drawing changes must be made by presenting replacement figures which incorporate the desired changes and which comply with § 1.84. An explanation of the changes made must be presented in the remarks section of the amendment. Any replacement drawing sheet must include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even though only one figure may be amended. The figure or figure number of the amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If the changes to the drawing figure(s) are not accepted by the examiner, applicant will be notified of any required corrective action in the next Office action. No further drawing submission will be required, unless applicant is notified.

Any questions regarding the submission of amendments pursuant to the revised practice set forth in this flyer should be directed to the following legal advisors in the Office of Patent Legal Administration (OPLA): Elizabeth Dougherty (Elizabeth.Dougherty@uspto.gov), Gena Jones (Eugenia.Jones@uspto.gov) or Joe Narcavage (Joseph.Narcavage@uspto.gov). For information on the waiver or legal aspects of the prototype, please contact Jay Lucas (Jay.Lucas@uspto.gov), Senior Legal Advisor (PCTLA) or Rob Clarke (Robert.Clarke@uspto.gov), Senior Legal Advisor (OPLA). Alternatively, further information may be obtained by calling OPLA at (703) 305-1616.

* Revised Notice: See Sec. B) for changes relating to substitute specifications, and Sec. C) for changes on replacement drawing practice.